

MR Wise will hold an inquiry at the Magistrate's Court.

Barber's Hill, of the Argyle and Southern
Highlanders, who died under somewhat
suspicious circumstances the other day. It
had been drinking at the "Red, Titled
and Shamrock" Tavern, and it alleged that
in the course of a disturbance there he
suffered injuries, which proved fatal on the
following morning. John Jacobus, a bar-
man at the tavern, has been arrested in connection
with the affair and is at present de-
tained in the city jail. The case of the
Hill has been regarded pending the result of
the Magistrate's inquiry.

Resurgence among the Afrianders has made
Louis Knappe, Louisville, a lyric and a
romancer. In an article on diamond min-
ing he moralizes on the suggestions excited
in his mind by the unparalleled concentra-
tion of effort he has just beheld. "To all
other mining," he says, "distinctly pro-
fane and profane, the diamond mining is
carried out beneficially, and in striking
this remark would apply to gold mines, to
coal mines, to tin, copper, and lead mines
and arsenals. It bears mine all the world's
arduous attempts to have diamonds ex-
ploded in force, in order to extract from the
depths of the ground, solely for the wealth
classes, a tiny crystal to be used for the
gratification of female vanity in imitation
of the sun. The diamond is not a mineral
but a gem, and it is not altogether a
barbaric if not altogether savage. The
mineralization of cynical criticism might
be urged if the diamond only adorned the
beautiful, the virtuous, and the young; but
its unhappiness in being the cause of
a review of the South African diamond
mines brings me coldly to the conclusion
that, whatever may be the origin of man,
woman is descended from an ape."

THE AMERICAN EAGLE IN A FIT-
THE Illustrated American, with the model

Solomon that seemed once to be the
creation of harebrained lunacy are rapidly
passing into the domain of practical politics.
Supporting the plan of Imperial Federation
and the annexation of the Cape Colony,
hoping that Australia should proclaim
her independence, and Canada should
join for annexation to the United States,
the Cape Colonists should follow the
example of the British, and the 100,000
million natives of Hindostan should
turn out the handful of Englishmen who govern
them—that would be left of the British
Empire? She would have her possessions
in the Cape, the Falkland Islands, and
like those of Portugal; and her frontiers
there would be merely a bit of an island
in the ocean. Her destiny would naturally
draw her to the United States, which would
be large enough and strong enough to
defend her against all other nations.
Her generation may not live to see it, but it

vest as Australia, India, Canada, and South Africa cannot be ruled by a country smaller in size, and hopelessly weakened by monarchical and aristocratic traditions. In the United States, the landed estate may afford England must be either American or Polish.

GETTING RID OF THE SURPLUS.—The Times has given some very interesting figures as to the finances of the United States. The mighty work of getting rid of the surplus, to which the Republican Party has devoted itself for the last three years, has been accomplished, and within a few months the government will be able to economize under certain heads there will actually be a deficit next year. The broad scale on which the money has been "holed" has been the chief cause of the deficit. The year ending June 30 was a record of

vious year of some \$25,000,000 sterling, and more than a third of the total annual disbursements of the nation. The figures in regard to the debt must, however, be qualified by the fact that the United States does not much more than £120,000,000 of interest-bearing debt left. It is impossible, therefore, to feel a keen sense of regret at the splendid opportunity missed by the United States and her old policy of aristocratic and limited expenditure being maintained, and had she not fallen into the hands of a gang of Protectionist manufacturers, America might have shown the world an example of what a nation could do when virtually freed from the burden of taxation.—*Spencerator*.

ary of State for the Colonies' representative of the opinion of the Liberal Party. In 22 July 1895, Lord Kimberley wrote to Lord Brassey, referring to the complaints of the Straits Settlements against the increased cost of their contribution for military purposes from 50,000 to 100,000, suggesting that the Government should consider whether the settlement should be submitted to a Royal Commission.¹

Lord Kimberley replied that if the conclusions of a Royal Commission were not to be enforced on responsible Colonies, the Government would have to leave the Government from the duty of examining every case of the kind presented by the Straits Settlements.² It was not unreasonable, he maintained, that the Straits Settlements should pay an increased contribution for military purposes. The Earl of Kimberley held it to be clear that the colony was not treated harshly in the burden of military expenditure in Great

The surveying ship, *Ramona*, which has just returned from China, is a Korean vessel. It has done good service during several years on that station; as, thanks to the exertions of Captain Verkerke and Commanders W. M. Moore and L. S. Dawson, the survey of the coast of Korea, and the coast of the Gulf of Changhai, was completed. The vessel left Changhai in 1880 under the command of Captain the Hon. L. Verkerke, who commenced the survey of the Chinese Archipelago to the south of Shanghai, and the coast of the Gulf of Changhai, Amoy, and Hong Kong. It was relieved by Commander Moore in the following year, and under the superintendence of the latter the Archipelago survey was completed, and the plans made of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Island, and the survey carried out by Commander Moore and his officers, together with the triangulation

Hong Kong, and the necessity for this fact was sufficiently shown by the fact of some of the principal points of land—such as the light-houses—being found to be grossly out of position. The Breakwater Point light-house, for example, was found to be fully a mile out of its true position on the chart, and this and other similar errors being due to the disjunctured surveys previously carried out on this extensive area of coast-line. The *Reindeer* was last recommissioned at Hong Kong in February, 1883, by Commander L. S. Dawson, from the *My* incident, by naming the speed home.

